

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:RRICH:CB
APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091078

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: ASSURANCES IN RESPONSE TO REPORT OF BLUE
HOUSE BUGGING

REF: STATE 89351

1. ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BASIS OF SEVERAL
APPARENTLY RATHER HEATED CABLES FROM SEOUL, ROK EMBASSY
POLITICAL COUNSELOR PARK MADE REPRESENTATIONS AT THE
DEPARTMENT SATURDAY APRIL 8 REGARDING THE INADEQUACY OF
THE WRITTEN ASSURANCES PROVIDED BY AMBASSADOR TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY APRIL 7 IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL.

2. PARK POINTED OUT THAT ROKG FELT WRITTEN ASSURANCES
SHOULD EMBODY POINTS MADE ORALLY APRIL 6 BY AMBASSADOR TO
FOREIGN MINISTER, AND ALSO CONTAIN EXPRESSION OF REGRET FOR
EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED BY FORMER AMB. PORTER'S STATEMENTS
ON CBS. ROKG INSTRUCTIONS ALSO INDICATED THAT UNSATIS-
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FACTORY PROLONGATION OF THIS INCIDENT WAS DAMAGING TO
US-ROK RELATIONS.

3. KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR RICH EXPRESSED STRONG CONCUR-
RENCE WITH VIEW THAT THIS ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE PROLONGED,
AND COMPLIMENTED LOW-KEY AND CONCILIATORY PUBLIC STATEMENTS

BY ROKG WHICH HAD SERVED TO AMELIORATE THE PROBLEM.

4. REGARDING THE WRITTEN NOTE SUPPLIED TO THE ROKG APRIL 7, THIS WAS ACKNOWLEDGEDLY LESS FORTHCOMING THAN OUR PRIVATE ORAL STATEMENTS, BUT WE HAD AGREED FORMALLY TO TRANSMIT THE PUBLIC STATEMENT IN THIS MANNER IF IT WAS USEFUL TO THE ROKG. IF THIS WAS NOT HELPFUL, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST TO WITHDRAW THE WRITTEN NOTE AND REVERT TO OUR COMPREHENSIVE ORAL ASSURANCES MADE DIRECTLY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER BY THE AMBASSADOR, ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. PARK WAS INFORMED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE PRECEDENT INVOLVED, WE DID NOT WISH TO CONVERT OUR ORAL ASSURANCES INTO EITHER LETTER OR AIDE MEMOIRE, ALTHOUGH WE HAD EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION TO THE ROKG ACKNOWLEDGING THAT IT HAD RECEIVED SUCH ASSURANCES AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER WAS PREPARED THUS TO CONFIRM. ROK EMBASSY, HOWEVER, REFERRED TO AN ALLEGED PRECEDENT IN 1961 IN A LETTER OF REASSURANCE FROM SEC STATE RUSK TO SINGAPORE'S LEE KUAN-YU.

5. AS WE UNDERSTAND THIS HAS ALSO BEEN TAKEN UP WITH YOU BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO SUGGEST THAT YOUR LETTER BE WITHDRAWN AND THAT WE ARE ALL BETTER OFF BY STANDING ON THE OFFICIAL ASSURANCES YOU CONVEYED TO FONMIN PARK ON APRIL 6. AS A FALL BACK POSITION, HOWEVER, YOU MAY AGREE TO PROVIDE A REVISED COVERING

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LETTER WHICH, IN ADDITION TO THE LANGUAGE AUTHORIZED IN STATE 89351, COULD CONTAIN AN EXPRESSION OF REGRET AT THE EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED FOR THE ROKG BY THE REMARKS OF A FORMER AMBASSADOR (OR FORMER U.S. OFFICIAL). YOU SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, ENCOURAGE ANY HOPE THAT WE WILL PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIVELY MORE SATISFYING ENCLOSURE THAN THAT ALREADY GIVEN.

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